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**Inside: The April Fools Issue • Free
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PHOTO OF SEATTLE MAYOR GREG NICKELS, BY MIKE HAMRICK.

Nickels Names Impaler as Deputy Mayor



YOU BETTER NOT CROSS VLAD.

By Rual Schmell

Seattle's political culture will never be the same. That's what some insiders are saying after Mayor Nickels sacked top aide Tim Ceis because he was just too nice. Vlad the Impaler, also known as the original Count Dracula, has been retained as the new Deputy Mayor.

"Ceis really tried to be a hard-ass jerk, but ultimately it just wasn't

enough," said a defensive Nickels. "If someone pissed him off, he'd stop returning their calls. Big deal. Vlad drives a 10-foot wooden stake up their ass and hangs 'em outside City Hall as a warning. Let's see how much negative press we get now!"

While some concerns were raised over hiring someone nearly six centuries old for such a key position, Nickels counters that age is not an issue for the undead.

Vlad the Impaler made a name for himself in 15th-century Transylvania by adopting a no-nonsense policy of unmitigated cruelty for even minor offenses. According to one legend, Vlad invited all the poor and hungry of the realm to a banquet, fed them a sumptuous meal, and then sealed the doors and incinerated the building.

Mayor Nickels praises the Impaler for his ability to "think outside the box," but some say this is another retreat from the "Seattle nice guy" image Nickels projected on the campaign trail.

"I never thought I'd say this," says housing activist John Fox, "but Mark Sidran is starting to look pretty good. At least with him, we knew what we were getting." ■

Texas Woman Renders Satire Obsolete

By Bubba McDougal

Satire, the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose vice, folly, or unjustifiable politics, became obsolete this year when Chante Mallard spent two days apologizing to a homeless man wedged into her car's front windshield while he died from blood loss.

Mallard, a 25-year-old underachiever from Fort Worth, TX, slammed into homeless man Gregory Biggs with her Chevrolet Cavalier last October while driving home from a party. Rather than seek help, she parked in her garage and waited for Biggs to die. An informant that led police to the car reported that Mallard apologized profusely to Biggs as he laid across the hood of her car with broken legs and severe internal injuries.

While Mallard has been charged with murder, her actions have left satirists struggling with the realization that nothing they can say will ever top Mallard's ineffectual yet somehow metaphorical display of human sympathy.

"I think we've just redefined liberal guilt," said political filmmaker Michael Moore. "After an incident like this, there really isn't much left for me to say. I'm going to try and get a job at the post



THANKS TO THIS WOMAN, YOU CAN KISS SATIRE GOODBYE.

**"I can't compete
with this. It's
time to retire."**

**Andy Rooney
CBS' 60 Minutes**

office, or maybe in telemarketing."

Andy Rooney of CBS' *60 Minutes* had a similar reaction. "Have you ever noticed how I haven't had anything to say for 10 years?" whined Rooney. "I can't compete with this. It's time to retire."

Mallard herself hopes to perform more cutting-edge social commentary after her release from prison in another 20 years or so. "The possibilities are endless," said the heartless Texan. "Gloves for amputees, glasses for the blind. The mind reels."

The Texas District Attorney, a known enemy of satire, is pushing for a life sentence. ■



Everyone loves Classics Corner

Dear *Real Change*,

As a regular reader, I wanted to write to say how much I enjoy the Classics Corner column (page 14 of this issue). I always enjoy Perfess'r Harris' insights and knowledge — one of the most interesting and thought-provoking of any local paper.

The recent article on the relationship between the *Anabasis* and the film *The Warriors* was very good. I had always been fascinated with this connection since reading Pauline Kael's review of that film in the *New Yorker*.

Also, a suggestion: Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. I am currently reading the Penguin abridged edition, and there are several close par-

allels between that empire and the one we live in today — enough material for many columns.

Thanks again for the column — I hope it continues!

David Hahn
Seattle

Hello *Real Change*,

Thanks for your paper. It is my favorite local paper here in Seattle.

The rest of this message is for Timothy Harris: I like your "Classics Corner" column. I appreciate the respect without obsequiousness, your open-minded critique, your original and thought-provoking ideas, and the application to our times and struggles.

I would like permission to quote a line or two of yours occasionally, in my email to private and business correspondents (not for publication). I would credit you and *Real Change* as my source. If you permit, I would most likely use it in my email signature like this:

"The really scary thing is that most of us think we understand what's going on." — Timothy Harris, *Real Change* newspaper, Dec. 27, 2001

If you have a preference about the form of the citation (would you rather it read "Perfess'r Harris"?), just spell it out.

Respectfully,
Daniel Knierim
Seattle

Harris Responds:

In my opinion, the difference be-

tween Thersites and Achilles is that Achilles has standing to criticize, and Thersites does not. His problem is that he's just a lowly commoner, and Odysseus has no interest whatsoever in his opinion. Homer shares the values of the aristocracy. While he does, in some places, question the heroic code, he does not question social hierarchy. What makes Homer so compelling is that he doesn't demonize "the enemy." It's humans versus humans, which nicely confers heroic stature upon everyone's struggles. Later on, Sophocles brings up Thersites in his *Philoctetes* play, and the view is unchanged: Thersites is an ugly commoner who speaks out of school and gets what he deserves. Still, we can't help but be on his side. Were Thersites alive today, maybe he'd work at *Real Change*.

Dear Perfess'r Harris

I was just reading a section of the *Iliad* today and I think that Thersites' speech [in which he tries to persuade the troops to abandon Agamemnon, their commander, nine years into the siege of Troy, only to be shut up by Odysseus] is part of a "hidden" theme of the *Iliad*. The poem is a poem of force. The central character is force and what it does to humans: Ultimately, it makes them things. I believe Homer was a closet humanitarian. His depiction of the endless slaughter attests to that. Achilles himself weeps with Priam and loudly questions the lies of the heroic code. He withdraws because of the greed of Agamemnon, and in his despair, questions, like Thersites, the alleged values supposedly celebrated in the *Iliad*.

George MacLarty
Via e-mail

Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the Poor and Homeless

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Mission Statement:
Real Change organizes, educates, and builds alliances to create solutions to homelessness and poverty. We exist to provide a voice for poor people in our community.

Goals
Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
Publish the views of marginalized communities.
Create direct economic opportunity. Build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the *Real Change* newspaper, the **MacWorkshop** computer lab, **StreetLife Art Gallery**, the **StreetWrites** peer support group for homeless writers, the **Homeless Speakers Bureau**, and the **First things First** organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinions and perspectives of the authors. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry, and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. *Real Change* reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.

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RC Profile Molly Rhodes

Molly started at *Real Change* as the part-time Production Manager about two years ago, but in her spare time she writes plays — a vocation that started when she was five or six with a stage adaptation of "Strawberry Shortcake" for her classmates. After graduating from Yale in 1997 with a degree in theater, Molly asked her professor, "How does one make a living writing plays?" she recalls. "It helps to be dead," her professor replied.

Since that wasn't really an option, she found a job at a small weekly paper far away from Manhattan, where she grew up. It was a tiny town about an hour from Bakersfield, California — the kind of town where, she says, "you would go in to Bakersfield for some real culture." She met her boyfriend, Matt — took his job at the paper, actually — and they moved to Seattle, seeking to regain that big-city experience, in 2000.



MOLLY WORKS ON A MAILING. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

The move also helped Molly develop her love of another kind of play: baseball. She and her boyfriend are going to go see the Mariners vs. Oakland on April 7, and Molly plans to be raucous and root for the A's. Why not back the home team? Because, she says, it's fun to goad the staid and stodgy Seattle fans.

We're all mourning the fact that Molly plans to depart this year for a graduate post in playwriting. She's a finalist at UC San Diego, one of the top schools in the country. Meanwhile, she continues to write; most recently, she's developing a script about the Lower Manhattan residents who get to know an NYPD officer as they cross the security lines surrounding their neighborhood. ■

— by Adam Holdorf

Balancing the Budget on the Backs of the Most Vulnerable

By Marty Varela & Steve Daschle

As if you hadn't heard by now, King County government is facing a severe budget deficit in 2003. The county has already adopted 2002 reductions that trim its General Fund by more than \$41 million — or 9 percent of the total. To make matters more dreadful, there will likely be an additional \$50 million gap in the 2003 budget, and further cuts are forecast over the next few years.

Predictably, County government is up in arms. They are blaming the state for this predicament, pointing to the stream of top-down mandates that have arrived on their desk accompanied by pitiful funding or no funding at all. We agree that state budget cuts should not mean wholesale shifting of costs to counties. But in

County Executive Ron Sims is an above-average public servant resorting to one of the oldest budget-cutting tricks in the book: When the going gets rough, make it even rougher on the most vulnerable.

This year, the human services budget will be cut by 21 percent. Services that help abused women, people with disabilities, people without homes, families, our elders, at-risk teenagers, and people with medical needs will be affected. Specifically:

- Thousands of low-income seniors will be refused services such as visiting nurse care, help with chores, transportation, meals, and activities.
- Hundreds of families with children will no longer receive subsidies for child care, threatening their ability to continue working.
- More than 4,000 patients — 1,400 of them children — could be turned away from community health centers, denied treatment for conditions that could grow worse, and ultimately cost the county even more in emergency room and long-term hospitalization costs. A visit to a community health center costs about \$100; a visit to a county-run emergency room costs as much as \$450.
- Hundreds of families across the county will go hungry or become even more malnourished. Even more people without homes in our community will be denied shelter.
- Victims of domestic abuse will suffer cuts to the King County Domestic Violence Coalition as well as cuts in housing programs and legal aid.

Now, we do not think Sims and his fiscal advisors are a bunch of scrooges. But no matter how many times our county executive uninspiringly pleads that his hands are tied, we question his commitment to the most vulnerable people in our community. The total budget reductions to both criminal justice and general government are a significantly smaller percentage cut than all of the cuts to human services, while human services is a much smaller, but not any less critical, part of the County's budget.

The best test of a budget is the extent to which it meets the needs of its most vulnerable constituents. Based on our criteria, the King County budget fails. *Please* do not talk to us about amenities until basic needs are met. Many cuts that would compromise the quality of life in our region *simply don't have the impact on human lives like cuts to human services do.*

We give our King County government more credit than perhaps it appears here. Sims is in the unenviable position of having to make do with less. We human service providers have been there for years.

We need our King County government to be more creative. Why doesn't Sims appoint a task force of business, human service providers, recipients of services, and other community members to look at new ways to pay for services in the long term? That's what he did for the parks. Why doesn't County Councilmember Larry Phillips champion the creation of a Metropolitan Human Services District, like he did for parks?

The budget crisis is not going away. The next few years look much the same, only worse. The members of the Seattle Human Services Coalition will support the county as it pursues solutions to current and future budget crises, but we will not endorse a budget that slashes funding to services that mean the difference between life and death for some people. ■

Marty Varela and Steve Daschle are co-chairs of the Seattle Human Services Coalition.

the meantime, King County needs to re-evaluate its own leadership. County Executive Ron Sims is an above-average public servant resorting to one of the oldest budget-cutting tricks in the book: When the going gets rough, make it even rougher on the most vulnerable.

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If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

Two weeks before Tent City's second anniversary, it passed an even more momentous milestone by gaining legal recognition from the City of Seattle.

Residents of Tent City and representatives of the city gathered at the homeless camp's current site in North Seattle on Wednesday, March 13, and signed an agreement that ends the camp's legal limbo in return for more rules to govern its dealings with the neighbors.

Also laid to rest were the city's \$75-a-day fines levied against the Latino community center El Centro de La Raza. The fines began in the fall of 2000, and continued daily for five months while Tent City stayed on. The homeless camp and its host applied for a temporary land-use permit from the City Department of Design, Construction and Land Use; they got turned down, and the fines continued.

Last January, pro-bono lawyers for the camp took the city to court for denying the permit. In September, Superior Court Judge Thomas Majhan ruled in their favor, finding insufficient evidence to support the city's contention that a tent camp harmed public health or safety, property values, or violated the spirit of the land use code. Staff under City Attorney Mark Sidran promised they would appeal Majhan's ruling.

But when Tom Carr took Sidran's place in January, something different happened.

Carr decided his side couldn't win. He saw the city had no evidence that Tent City damaged the welfare of its host neighborhoods, and could point to no law that prohibited sleeping in tents. In ruling against the city's denial of a permit, Judge Majhan had also questioned the authority of City Council to decide the land use code. That was a systemic challenge: If the city went to court again and lost, it meant that authority might be jeopardized.

"The appeal had great risk," Carr says. "I didn't want to lose."

Judge Majhan is expected to approve the agreement before March 22, nullifying the appeal. The agreement will last 10 years, or six months after the City Council comes up with an alternative, says Carr.

Roberto Maestas, director of El Centro, praised Carr's performance. "I'm overjoyed that we won the court case and that the consent degree was negotiated to everybody's benefit," he says. ■

—Adam Holdorf

Rx for energy bills

"It's getting pretty tough out there for a lot of people," says George Wood, Manager of the city of Seattle's Energy and Utility Assistance Programs, "and electricity is about as basic as you can get." Seattle City Light's 50 percent electricity rate increase last year, says Wood, couldn't have come at a worse time for Seattle's poor.

The recession has hit the city hard, sending its unemployment rate from 4.4 to over 8 percent in just the past year. City, county, and state agencies have responded by slashing their human service budgets meant to help those who often have the fewest resources to cope with a slumping economy. Skyrocketing energy costs only made matters worse, and with City Light struggling to cover its recently announced \$160 million budget shortfall, rates may have to go up again this year.

But there is help for those least able to afford their skyrocketing energy bills. The problem is that the five different assistance programs are often underutilized, and each comes with its own acronym and potentially confusing bureaucracy to wade through.

"LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is the first assistance someone needs to go for," says Wood. "This is a really important program. Everyone has a light bill, but not everyone heats with electricity. This is a special fund created by Congress, distributed to populations considered low income, based on heat. It can pay up to \$700 on a heating bill." To qualify for LIHEAP, which is administered by the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), applicants need to make less than 125 percent of the poverty level and not live in federally subsidized (public or Section 8) housing.

"Once someone gets access to LIHEAP," says Wood, "they can get access to ELIA (Emergency Low Income Assistance), which just goes to electricity bills." ELIA will pay up to 50 percent of your electricity bill if you have received notice that lack of payment could result in lost service.

But unlike the federal programs, ELIA and other city-administered programs are available to more people. Last year, as she oversaw City Light's substantial rate increases, Seattle City Councilmember Heidi Wills also expanded eligibility requirements for the City's low-income energy assistance programs from 125 percent of the federal poverty level to 200 percent. According to Wills, "the threshold was so low you practically had to be homeless to qualify." Now qualifying individuals need to earn less than \$1,432 per



month, or \$2,941 per month for a family of four.

In addition to ELIA, the city also offers a utility rate discount program, Rate 27, that cuts the electricity, water, and trash bills of qualifying low-income households in half. Whereas the senior version of the program, Rate 26, has a 70 percent participation rate, Rate 27 has only a 6 percent participation rate. Out of 47,000 eligible households, only 3,000 are currently using the program.

Finally, if someone has tried all of these programs and still fallen short, there is Project Share, which will pay up to \$200 of an outstanding electric bill to help customers who would otherwise have their service cut off.

For more information about low-income energy assistance programs for City Light customers, check out www.cityofseattle.net/light/HELP. For LIHEAP assistance, Seattle residents can call CAMP at (206)328-2356; People who live north of Seattle can call (425)869-6028; South of Seattle, call (253)874-4328. To donate to or receive aid from Project Share, or to get other energy assistance and budget counseling, call (206)684-3000. If you live in Seattle and need your utility bills cut in half, call (206)684-0268. ■

—Trevor Griffey

Olympia wrap-up: not that bad?

The state Legislature finished their budget-writing session on time this year, which was a big surprise. The budget includes \$180 million in cuts to state-funded human services programs — not as bad a hit as some had feared, but still ravaging to individual programs. How bad was Olympia this session?

- The budget reduces payments to people applying for General Assistance-Unemployable, a program that provides a bridge to disabled people before they get other assistance.
- It cuts Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments that help low-income people pay the rent.
- It also eliminates beds for the mentally ill, and defers low-income children to higher-cost health care.
- Legislators resorted to selling off the tobacco settlement money — which can bring in as little as a quarter of what the original \$1.2 billion settlement is actually worth.
- Because a tax increase on liquor was scuttled at the last minute, legislators sent Governor Gary Locke a budget from which he must extract \$40 million of spending. Given that Locke had originally planned harsh cuts to social services, more may be in the works.
- Despite being so pressed for time and money, legislators made sure to fulfill the wishes of the rich by phasing out the estate tax. That will reduce revenue by \$40 million in the next four years. ■

—Adam Holdorf

Life in the park



MEDICS TRY TO REVIVE THE BODY OF FELIPE GARCIA-PEREZ, WHO WAS FOUND IN VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK ON SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 10. GARCIA-PEREZ'S LAST KNOWN PLACE OF RESIDENCE WAS BEAVERTON, OREGON. THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER IS AWAITING A TOXICOLOGY EXAM TO DETERMINE HOW HE DIED. PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE HICKEY CALLED 911, THEN WAITED UNTIL HELP ARRIVED TO SNAP THIS PHOTO.

Do you have any stories we should look into? Call Adam at 441-8143, and just maybe we will.

Accounts of Homeless Man's Death Differ

Shooting brings up questions about police use of non-lethal weapons

By Adam Holdorf

More than 70 people walked into the basement hall of University Baptist Church on a Saturday afternoon in mid-March, sat down on folding chairs, and waited for the beginning of an unusual event: the eyewitness testimony of five people to a shooting death by the Seattle Police Department. There were no lawyers in the room, no police spokespersons — just a crowd, incensed at the murder of Shawn Jerel Maxwell, a 31-year-old black man who had been living in his car, and eager to know more about the circumstances that led to his death.

Here's what we know about that day Monday, February 18, when Maxwell was pulled over for making an illegal turn. He sped away from police sirens, rammed into a parked car, and fled police on foot. Cornered in a U-District sideyard next to the interstate, he was shot. He died 13 minutes after reaching Harborview Medical Center.

Accounts differ on the details. Police told the daily papers that, as he ran, Maxwell unsheathed a sword with a 19-inch blade. "Go ahead and shoot me," he yelled after police as he dashed away. One officer tried, unsuccessfully, to stun Maxwell with a taser, a less-lethal gun that delivers an electric shock to people up to 21 feet away. It either didn't work or missed its mark. Cornered in that sideyard, Maxwell raised the weapon over his head. According to Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske in the February 20 *Seattle Times* report, "It was only after he raised his sword above his head, advanced toward the officers, leaned toward the officers... that the officers fired."

Officer Brett Rogers hit Maxwell with two bullets, while another officer successfully landed a taser shot. Maxwell fell, but then rose up again, sword in hand, and "lunged" at the police, said the chief. Officer Stanley Streubel shot Maxwell two more times. An ambulance was called.

Numerous witnesses — some of whom spoke at the Saturday forum — have differing accounts. Their testimony agrees with the cops on the basics: Shawn was walking; he was cornered; he was shot. Only one of the witnesses saw police fire the taser gun. But none of them mention an aggressive move on the part of the victim — the "lunge" — before or after he was shot. None of these witnesses recall seeing Maxwell move the weapon in his hand above waist-level, as the police say he did. And none of them saw Maxwell rise up after he was knocked off his feet by two bullets and a 50,000-volt electric shock.

Here it is in their own words:

Joel Voss, who heard a siren wailing outside his window and went outside onto 7th Avenue Northeast, gave the follow-

ing statement to detectives after the shooting: "I could see that [police officers] had found something behind the two houses that are backed by the free-way wall across from my front yard.

Some of them pulled out their guns. A couple went behind the houses but 15 were on the sidewalk with guns drawn. Then I saw a black man come out from behind the houses. He was walking with no hurry. He was carrying a thin black rod. The closest thing that I could liken it to is rebar (metal bars that reinforce concrete). When he got to the middle of the grass yard, he stopped. They shouted "Stop!" and possibly "Put down the weapon!" The closest officer was more than 10 feet away. Then he lifted the rod slightly, below his waist, and I heard two shots and then three more shots in rapid succession. He fell to the ground on his back. He then used his elbows to lift his head and shoulders off the ground approximately six inches. He was still on the ground. Then I heard a hail of gunfire, approximately 15 shots in the time of two seconds."

Here is what Alissa Greenman, a housemate of Joel's watching from a front window, saw: "From behind a house came a black man, he was calmly walking into the house's side yard. I could see that he was holding some sort of stick in his right hand down by his side. The police, about 14 or so, were in a semicircle about nine feet away from the suspect. One of them fired a taser and I could see that it either didn't reach, or the cop had missed. The suspect kept walking towards the street, and then two shots were fired and the man fell down. The police advanced towards him. He started to sit up and two more shots were fired into his chest. At this point the man never got up again. The officers hand-cuffed him, kicked the stick out of his hand, and then started to treat his wounds. The ambulance came about three minutes later."

Leisha Diane, a neighbor of these two witnesses who was not at the Saturday forum, also did not see Maxwell make any threatening gesture. She came to her front door and watched through the window as six to eight officers cornered Maxwell in a side yard across the street from her house. She heard two

shots and saw the man thrown onto his back. He looked surprised, and then started to get back up — Diane doesn't remember if he got back up to his feet or not. She heard three or four shots, and then officers in the area ran up to administer first aid. She didn't see anything in Maxwell's hands, which were down at his sides the whole time.

Maxwell's death was the third homicide by Seattle Police Department officers since November. Like the killing of James Anthony Shuster in a U-District boarding house in November, it also brings up questions about the use and effectiveness of the force's taser guns, purchased in part to avoid the use of deadly firearms.

In the aftermath of Maxwell's death, Chief Kerlikowske praised his officers for taking extraordinary measures to use non-lethal force. What that means is that one of the officers twice fired a taser in an attempt to subdue him. Yet multiple officers were involved — not all of whom relied on the stun gun. Police and one of the witnesses, Greenman, say the first taser shot either missed the mark or malfunctioned. The second taser shot landed on Maxwell at exactly the same time as officers fired their guns, according to police.

The police's story invites two questions. First, if they went to such extraordinary measures to prevent a death, and the tasers didn't work right, then what good are they? And couldn't the taser have been used a third time to keep a wounded man still instead of resorting to more gunfire?

One thing is clear: police officers receive far more training in the use of their guns than in their tasers. Firearms training begins in Police Academy; officers on the force practice continually. Officers go through just four hours of instruction on taser use. So far, 150 of the force's 1,264 officers have been trained and given the weapons.

This is the second time in four months that police attempted to use the weapons, but ultimately resorted to their guns — with tragic results. On November 27, Anthony James Shuster was killed in the bedroom of his Lake City Way boarding house. According to his housemates, Shuster had been distraught. The taser shocked but did not incapacitate him. Shuster took a swipe at one of the officers with a knife, and another officer, gun at the ready, shot him six times.

At least according to some witnesses, Maxwell was already on the ground, recovering from a taser shock and wounded by two bullets, when Officer Streubel fired twice more into him. The Seattle Police Department's so-called "use of force guidelines" teach officers to use "deadly force" (a gun) only when their lives are at risk. Police say they were in danger — but witnesses indicate that Maxwell no longer posed a threat. If Streubel had made the same assessment, perhaps a man would be alive today. ■

The police's story invites two questions. First, if they went to such extraordinary measures to prevent a death, and the tasers didn't work right, then what good are they? And couldn't the taser have been used a third time to keep a wounded man still instead of resorting to more gunfire?

More Than Meets the Eye

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3/21/02

poetry

Johanna's Song

I make tracings feeling a constellation
sweet briar freckles on her arching brow—
and cusped breasts
interrupting the rhythm of breathing
I worship the
sea
where life began
she saved pencil shavings
as I gather stars from her
skin creating a necklace of light
for our child.

—EARLE THOMPSON

you taste your tears
but can't wait to get them off
your tongue
when you reach that corner
and force your eyes past the
cardboard between worn hands
and a broken face
who's seen too many tired streets

the streets you've seen too
but you drive past them fast
and turn up the volume
on your built-in stereo
so you won't have to hear the silence
outside.

-TAYA

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



Spoiler alert!

I've seen *A Beautiful Mind*, and I can't resist talking about it. I'm even going to tell you how it ends. So if you haven't seen it, save this paper, go see the movie, come back, pick this paper up again, finish reading. All right? Get going. I mean it.

Those of you who know I once was a research mathematician before I went a little "funny in the head," and who recognize that as the basic plot of *ABM*, will understand why I might relate to this movie personally.

Of course, John Nash, the protagonist of *ABM* (played by Russell Crowe, whom I am, by the way, as handsome as) was already a little funny in the head as the story of the movie began. But in truth, I was also noticeably odd prior to graduate school. They didn't call me Weird Wes for nothing. As far back as kindergarten. The thing is, in both cases we got way weirder after graduate school. Right after.

The main difference between Nash and I, besides the fact that I won't ever win a Nobel prize, is the diagnosis. Nash (whom, in real life, I am as handsome as) was certifiably paranoid schizophrenic. I was a something else wrapped up in a Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. In practical terms this means that I didn't believe MY hallucinations. But mine made up for that by being more mystical.

We've been having a little fun here at *Real Change* speculating as to the title that my movie will have, if ever Hollywood should get around to twisting the facts of my story. Tim "Perfess'r" Harris (whom I am as handsome as) has suggested *A Perverse Mind*. Anitra "I've Got Your Writer's Workshop Right Here" Freeman likes *An Esthetically Challenging Mind*, or *A Beautiful Id*. Or (she's telling me these as I write) *A Nicely Dimpled Mind*. Or *A Mind with A Great Personality*. No Really. *A Great Personality*.

I can't decide which I like best. Those are good ideas, but I also like *A Beautiful Right Cheek*, or *A Beautiful Gut*, or *A Mind Only A Mother Could*

Love. Or, *My Other Mind Is A Rembrandt*.

"So, Wes, when are you going to get polemical?"—some of you are probably asking. Well, I'm gearing myself up to it.

In the one place, we know that in real life Nash was not a poster child for anti-psychotic meds. Nash's condition improved after he stopped taking meds. Given the impact of the movie, I think this can't be stressed too much. The

movie doesn't come down hard enough on this fact.

Lately I've been sharing my drug life in these pages. To correct a possible misunderstanding: I survived the worst of my Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome without drugs. Without even alcohol. The drugs I take now are only fine-tuning a cure that already came about the way Nash's cure came about: long time dealing

The title that my movie will have, if ever Hollywood should get around to twisting the facts of my story: *A Perverse Mind, An Esthetically Challenging Mind, or A Beautiful Id. Or A Nicely Dimpled Mind. Or A Mind with A Great Personality. No Really. A Great Personality.*

with the problem directly, with my mind, and with the help of truly beautiful minds (a therapist, friends, and some other people who had been where I was).

In the other place, I just cleaned my apartment. I haven't felt so non-homeless in years. It took days to clean a 200-square foot room. It was a joyful necessity.

What does cleaning my place have to do with *A Beautiful Mind*? Good question. Answer me this: What does the CIA have to do with aliens?

I rest my case. ■



A Bukowski State of Mind

My landlord's banging
on the door
my lady friend's passed out
on the floor
I'm guzzling down
my last pint
and after this
I'll be hitting the wine
they towed my car
but I'm feeling fine
a Bukowski state of mind

I'm dancing my dance
and living on wit
I've got a headache, a hard-on
and I can't shit
working in a factory making
food for cats
the workers are crazy
the boss is a rat
the job is a goof
you know I like it like that
a Bukowski state of mind

Now I step to the left
I step to the right
I'm a peaceable man
I don't like to fight
but situations change
they mess with your bed
a dog bites you
go upside his head

Well Little Andy you know
he went and died
he's watching us drink
from the other side
or maybe up there
they got a heavenly brew
drop the false
and cop to the true
you can dream forever
so don't be blue
a Bukowski state of mind

The cops at the door
inquire within
my lady wakes up and
kicks one in the shin
they haul her off and
leave me behind
leave me talking to
a bottle of wine
the sundown's rosé
now there's a sign
a Bukowski state of mind
oh yeah
a Bukowski state of mind
don't you know
a Bukowski state of mind

—ROBERT DEMALVILAIN

Fire Hoarder

Third and Prefontaine
Comes a man
With cigarette in hand
“Do you have a light?”
Asks he

With a dirty look
The man
Shakes his head
Shuts him down
Climbs aboard the bus
Headed uptown

Turning then he spies
A woman
“Do you have a match?”
He asks
“I don't smoke”
Her curt reply

Shoulders slump
Reluctant hand
Reaches into pocket
Brings out matchbook

Sacrificing
One future fire
From his dwindling supply
He fills his nicotine need now

Sensing the
Silent laughter
Behind him
He walks on

—RENEENE ROBERTSON

Ballade

If I knew the answer
to your shady grace
imp disposition
tranquil certainty
and to your clear
days, whatever
notes in sequence

adagio

I would probably ask
you to accompany me
just like that
with the quickness
an overture sounding
a gesture sibylline
a glance to the
impatient horizon
over a few hills
to a river and then
a city of lights
we could just ask
ourselves questions
and decide a few things
a duet perhaps, reverie
for flute and oboe

vivace

As it is
I don't know you well
do I, but I do know
you see me as I am
taken with your dusky
charms, the mischief
in your eyes dancing
as you pass you touch
the unstruck chords
of my being, yes you do
like a very fey pianist
which is a mystery
like magnetism
and chance intention
how you will answer me
what you will say
how it will go
when you give me that look
when you meet me there
and we slide into bed
as if into a pool
sliding into you
our tongues playing
like ardent otters
and everything suddenly
applauds, everything
breaks into laughter

grazioso

—ROBERT DEMALVILAIN

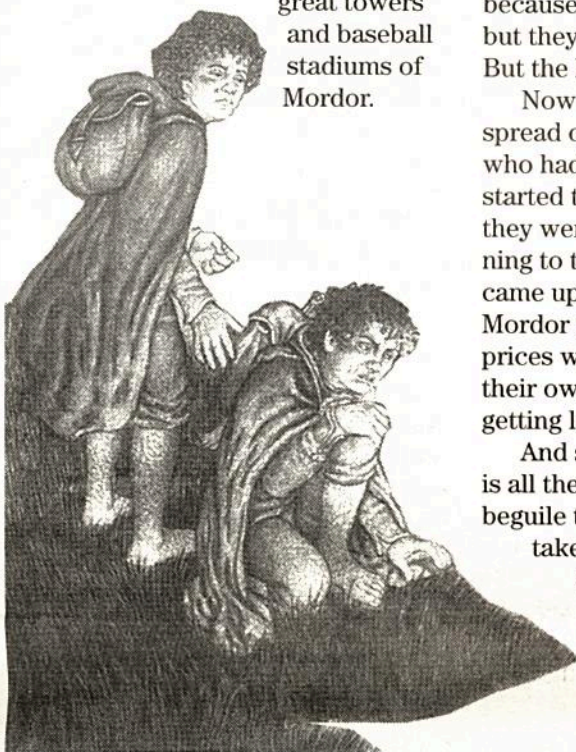
Middle Earth = Seattle

By Anitra Freeman and members of StreetWrites

Uncle Bob Gandalf loved the hobbits — the people who lived under the bridges and down in the basements and in all the other out-of-the-way places that weren't in anyone's backyard.

But Sauron, who wanted to control all the land, hated the hobbits. He hated even the little baby hobbits, whose very cuteness encouraged people to spend money on their mere survival instead of on building the

great towers
and baseball
stadiums of
Mordor.



So the hobbits found themselves in the unusual position of being a pivot point in the great war of power over Middle Earth, which was called Seattle in those days.

"Down with hobbitises!" cried the banners of Sauron.

"More shelter for hobbits!" called the banners of the elves. "A roof over every hole!"

And it came to pass that Nickels the White said unto the people, "Give me leadership over the Seattle of Middle Earth, for I am kind, and gentle, and I will lead the city in the ways of peace." And the people gave Nickels the White leadership over the city.

And Nickels the White changed his name to Saruman.

And Saruman said unto the dwarves that labor in the dimly lit caverns of the paper mines, "Speak no more to anyone, for if I want you to have an opinion I will tell everyone what it is." And Saruman said unto the people, "Speak no more to me, except through my Head Orc, whose name among you is 'Tim Ceis.'" And Saruman said unto the Council, "No more Mr. Nice Guy."

And the elves were disconcerted, because they had not expected much, but they had expected more than this. But the hobbits were used to it.

Now as the blight of Mordor spread over the land, many people who had thought that they were kings started to feel like hobbits, because they were getting hungry and beginning to think about food a lot. It also came upon them that as the towers of Mordor grew higher and higher, the prices were growing also higher, and their own place in the towers was getting lower and lower.

And some among them said, "This is all the fault of the hobbits, for they beguile the food from our mouths and take up space in the backyards and lower property values."

And others among them said, "That is the voice of Sauron."

And some among them

said, "This is all the fault of the kings, who did not put first things first in the good times, and share power and prosperity to make the city livable for everyone."

And others among them said, "That is the voice of Sauron."

And some among them said, "This is all the fault of Gollum, who has held power for so long as to become twisted and an embarrassment to all." And everyone said, "Which Gollum?"

And the hobbits said, "How about everybody stop blaming each other and just work together to make things better?"

But nobody ever listens to hobbits.

Gandalf the Wise, however, had always felt as did the hobbits, and went on working behind the scenes, running hither and yon, appearing and disappearing, coordinating Projects and making Pronouncements. Aragorn, the King in Hiding, defended the hobbits and taught them the arts of battle, while keeping a Low Profile. A king among the dwarves became a friend to the hobbits, and signed a peace treaty with their little village called Tent City. And among the elves, and among the dwarves, and among the kings, others came quietly forward, to stand with the hobbits in Fellowship and begin the long journey to end the great war of Power and make all of Middle Earth a good place to live — for hobbits and elves and dwarves and kings and wizards at least, if not for Orcs.

But the journey has just begun. ■



Suite Watch

"A new neighborhood group, the Downtown Seattle Residents Council, has formed to push for safer streets, cleaner sidewalks, usable parks, and an improved living experience... they're exploring a 24-hour quality-of-life hot line similar to one in New York, where citizens call to report problems that don't require emergency police assistance."

— *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, February 20

Thursday, February 28, 1st Avenue and University, 11:07 a.m. A resident of Harbor Steps called to report an unsettling person 20-flights down from her condo balcony. The resident said the person was sitting on the steps on Western "looking poor" and was disturbing what was otherwise a lovely view of the Olympics. Safety Ambassadors were immediately dispatched to the scene and trespassed the person from the steps.

Saturday, March 1, 2nd Avenue and Cedar, 10:30 a.m. A resident who asked that her building not be identified expressed fear that the high Belltown condo vacancy rate and the subsequent lowering of some rents could lead to "less than desirable" people moving into her building. She was comforted with the knowledge that rents, while lower than last year, are still more than three times what the officially poor person can afford.

Sunday, March 2, Western and Broad, 9:08 a.m. A man out for a jog called from his cellphone to complain about a mid-1980s Plymouth Reliant K car parked outside his home. When asked what was suspicious about the car, the man stated that its make, model, and year should be enough. Although legally the car could be parked at the meter until Monday morning, Safety Ambassadors were dispatched to the scene to wait for the owner and suggest other neighborhood parking options for the future.

Sunday, March 2, 2nd Ave. and Bell, 4:32 p.m. A woman called exasperated at her inability to discourage a man who was trying to sell *Real Change* newspapers around the corner from her home. She stated she had tried ignoring him, then glaring at him, then provoking him into some sort of violent action, but nothing had worked. The dispatcher commiserated that under current law the vendor could stand on the sidewalks as long as he wanted, though he reassured her that when he wins his second bid for mayor in 2005, "all that will change." ■

Compiled by Ima Star.

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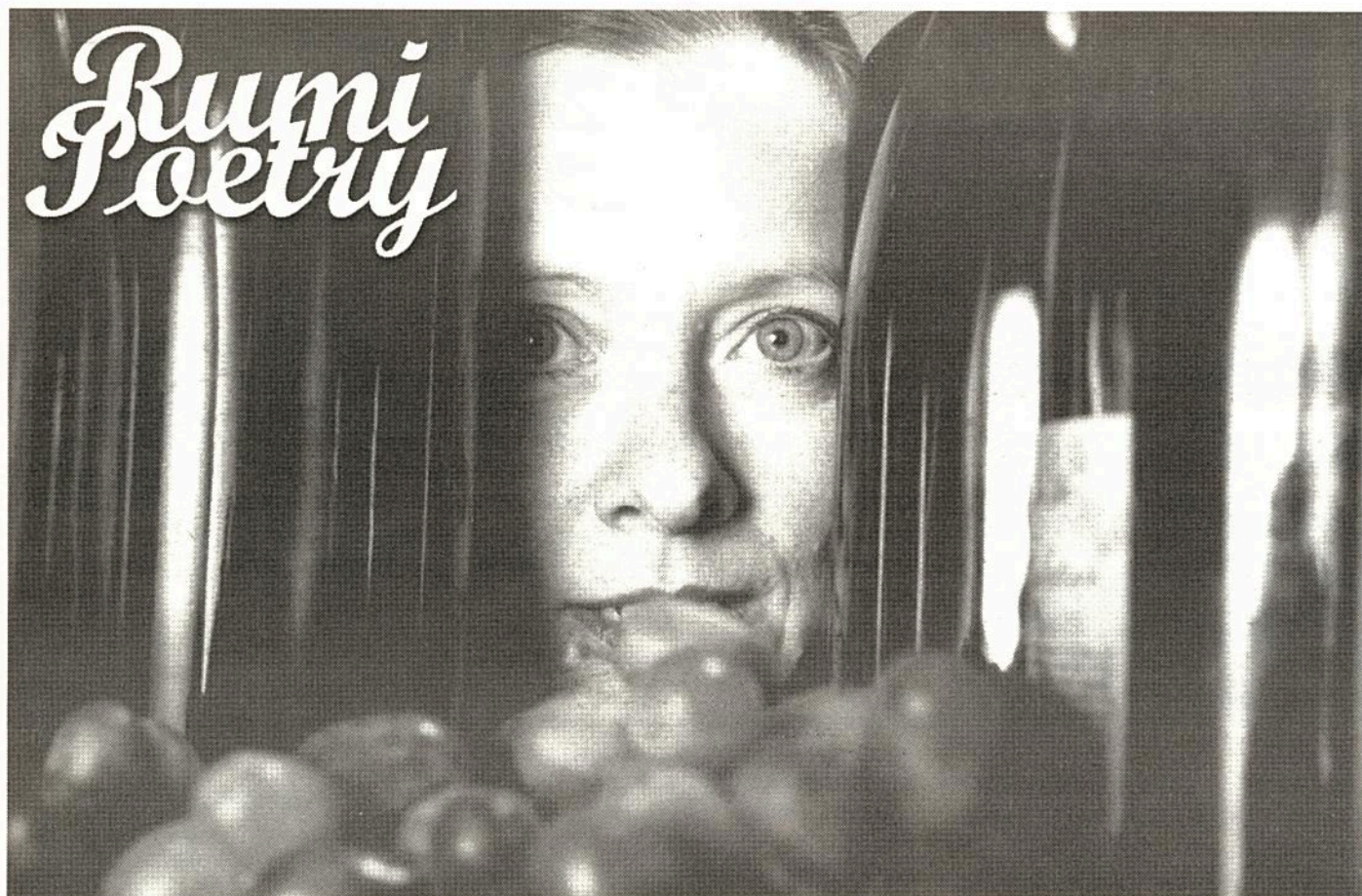


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ACTRESS BETH AMSBARY WILL EMBODY RUMI'S POETRY AT A BENEFIT SHOW. PHOTO BY JOHN CURRY.

By Jeanne Ryan

The work of 13th-century poet Jelaluddin Rumi will be reborn April 6 in a benefit performance for the Capitol Hill Community Resource Center. The works of Rumi, a Sufi Muslim leader dedicated to living a life of simplicity, reflect his ecstatic experiences as a mystic. New translations have made Rumi's poetry increasingly accessible to English-speaking audiences who have embraced his prolific works, making him the most popular poet in the United States. By conservative estimates, his poetry has sold hundreds of thousands of copies. By comparison, 1995 Nobel Laureate Wislawa Szymborska sold only 13,000 copies of her poetry edition in the U.S. Rumi's willingness to tackle issues of God and the universe via nature have also contributed to his popularity. Poetry reviewer Jerome W. Clinton says, "When I asked them [audiences] what draws them to Rumi, a common response is that it fills a need they didn't know they had, that they really hadn't known they wanted to hear that kind of poetry until they did."

Rumi is especially poignant today, in the face of our current war. Born in Afghanistan in 1207, he and his family fled to modern-day Turkey, where he spent the rest of his life. His work has provided insight into Muslim arts that the Western world otherwise overlooks. His reverence for Islamic, Hebrew, and Christian teachings is a shining example of respect for all peoples and religions. Not only in its help for the resource center, but also in its appreciation for cultural understanding, this performance stands for social justice.

Below, director Terry Edward Moore tells us what makes this particular performance so special.

Real Change: Why did you decide to direct this performance?

Terry Edward Moore: I've made something of a specialty over the past few years of learning as much as I can about verse speaking on stage in general, with Shakespeare in particular. I was particularly intrigued by a chance to wrestle with a poet I hadn't wrestled with on stage yet.

RC: How is Rumi's poetry put to music? And what kind of music accompanies it?

Moore: Most of it is original music composed by Patrick Shaw who plays it on-stage. The rehearsals with him just really involved a lot of playing around as to which pieces benefited from what kind of musical accompaniment. Some don't use any at all. Some are underscored, and a couple she sings. Most of the music he plays on an electric guitar, oddly enough. He can get an amazing variety of sounds out of that guitar. One long sequence he does on a hammered dulcimer, which he uses for both real music and for what I call musical effects — sound effects. They're a lot of fun.

RC: What subject matter does this poetry deal with?

Moore: It has a wonderfully wide range too. Rumi was a Muslim mystic, and a lot of the poetry does deal with the nature of our relationship with God and the universe. But it does so in a delightfully earthy way. All of his imagery is very particular and very hands-on: what you hear, touch, taste, smell. It's the imagery which I think makes it wonderfully accessible. There is also love poetry. And a lot of it is very funny; he had quite a sense of humor. And when he is dealing with trying to make some sort of religious point or other he often does it with a joke. There is one poem that Beth does about Solomon who supposedly is getting a little too big for his britches, so his crown keeps sliding over to the side of his head. The crown eventually speaks in the poem, saying, Well I had to show you what your power being off center looks like.

RC: What does it mean that Rumi is an "ecstatic" poet?

Moore: I think it means several things, but among other things I think it means that he didn't sit down with pen in hand

Widening Rings of Being: The Poetry of Rumi

Performed by actress Beth Amsbary and musician Patrick Shaw, under the direction of Terry Edward Moore. Saturday, April 6 at Pilgrim Congregational church, 509 10th Ave E. \$15 tickets available in advance by calling (206) 323-0300 ext. 315. Sponsored by St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, co-sponsored by First Christian Church and Pilgrim Congregational.

Proceeds of the show go to benefit the church's Capitol Hill Community Resource Center. This nonprofit walk-in center helps more than 200 low-income and homeless people each month in obtaining the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, hygiene items, rent assistance, and bus tickets. Since the end of February, the center has helped pay the rents of 61 people facing eviction.

and write these poems. He spoke them out loud, more or less spontaneously, and some poor scribe followed him around with a pen and paper and wrote down as much of it as quickly as he could. And I don't know that anybody will ever know how much Rumi may have gone back after the fact and edited these things. But they're ecstatic in the sense of being very viscerally inspired by whatever he is thinking about or going through at the moment.

RC: Why should people come and see this performance?

Moore: I think it's a wonderful way to experience a poet most of us don't know a whole lot about. He's a wonderful poet. I think this is true of most poetry, but especially true of Rumi: It only really lives when it's out loud, spoken.

When it is spoken by an actress as good as Beth is, we get insights into the material that we don't get with a book on our lap at home. ■

"Rumi didn't sit down with pen in hand and write these poems. He spoke them out loud, more or less spontaneously.... I don't know that anybody will ever know how much Rumi may have gone back after the fact and edited these things. But they're ecstatic in the sense of being very viscerally inspired by whatever he is thinking about or going through at the moment."

Terry Edward Moore

All Powers Revived

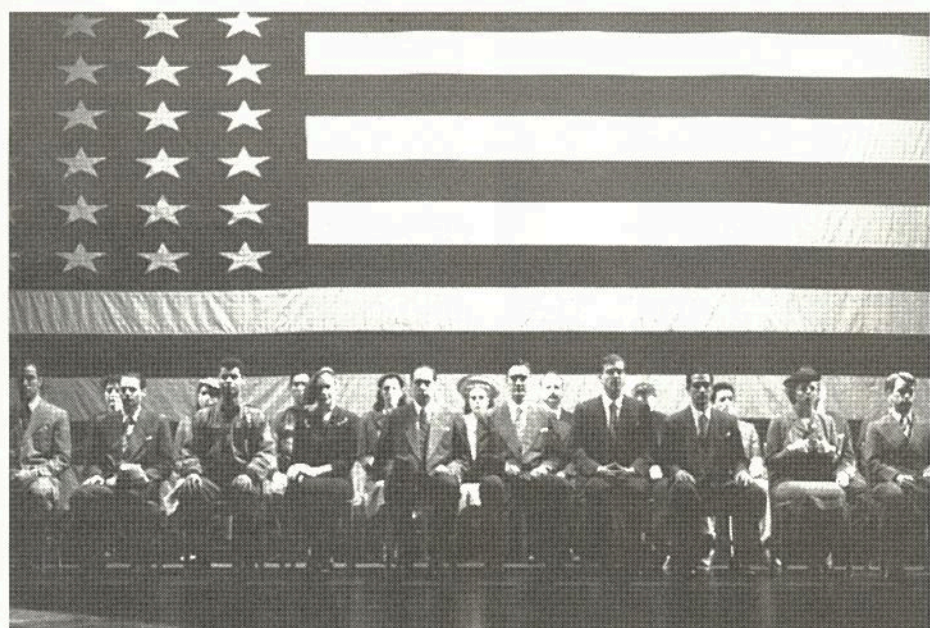


PHOTO FROM THE 1998 ALL POWERS PRODUCTION BY FRANK ROSENSTEIN.

By Molly Rhodes

Since the attacks of September 11, professors teaching in campuses across the country have been subject to scrutiny and criticism for any comments questioning America's response.

"Groups like ACTA [the American Council of Trustees and Alumni] attacked any kind of speech that questions the war or [President] Bush," said UW Professor Michael Chemers. "What's wrong with saying, 'Let's strive for

peace,' or 'Let's not have a racist war'?"

In ACTA's fall newsletter, *Inside Academe*, dozens of professors were singled out for voicing thoughts like this one, expressed by Michael Rothschild, Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University: "There is a terrible and understandable desire to find and punish whoever was responsible for this. But as we think about it, it's very important for Americans to think about our own history, what we did in World War II to Japa-

nese citizens by interning them."

In the face of attacks against such comments, a group of University of Washington history professors approached UW School of Drama professor Mark Jenkins about re-staging his play, *All Powers Necessary and Convenient*.

The play — which was first written and performed at the school in 1998 — grew out of a verbatim transcript of the Washington state Legislature's 1948 anti-Communist hearings — the "Canwell Hearings" — that Jenkins discovered. Jenkins combined whole chunks of the natural script of the hearings with his own conjectures about the environment and attitudes of leaders and citizens in Washington at the time.

"We want to remind people that McCarthyism is not that far in our past," said Chemers, who helped organize a staged reading of the play at the UW Playhouse Theatre, which itself became a part of the university after the theatre company that used to call it home was ruined in the wake of the anti-Communist hearings. "There had to be some kind of talk about what is currently being said and done."

In fact, the many desires to get voices heard post September 11 became so strong that the play reading soon ballooned into a four-day event, with numerous panels and debates, called "Rights and Terror: The 'All Powers' Project II." Headlining the event will be Georgetown University Law School professor David Cole, who, as a staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, argued for the protection of flag burning and challenged the constitutionality of content restrictions on federal art funding.

"We can't afford to part with civil liberties and maintain a free society, even if we're scared — especially if we're scared," said Chemers. "My personal belief, it's a slippery slope from compromising civil liberties to harming civil rights. We've seen it happen in history. We're seeing it happen now." ■

Dear Departed

Marge Lueders, devoted editor-in-chief of *The Source* and board member of the Gray Panthers of Seattle, is still missed by many of her friends and readers since she died on January 22. *The Source* is the monthly newspaper of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, an ecumenical Christian organization working on issues of human need, civil rights, and interfaith dialogue. Starting as a temporary editor in 1981, Lueders edited 186 issues of the paper before retiring at the age of 83 in 1991. Lueders also wrote for several local papers about social justice issues.

One of many Lueders' many achievements was her invention of the Solo Series. Having experienced divorce twice, and raising three children in the early '60s, she introduced a program to help divorced singles overcome their pain and sense of stigma. At the age of 65, her concern about ageism began to grow, and she served the Gray Panthers as their national vice president. Lueders recognized the problems that elders were facing with health care, Social Security, and low-income housing. Lueders served on the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and worked as the governor's delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. She insisted that "there should be ways to assist older Americans and all Americans to the degree that they need to get back on track."

Staff at *The Source* remember Lueders' enthusiastic energy, fairness, and hard work. Lueders wrote once, "A newspaper reflects the goals of the organization that publishes it and acquires, I believe, the spirit of those purposes and the people who work with it." Her spirit was so endless that she continued her dedication to bringing social justice even after she moved to Colorado to live with her daughter at the age of 83. After Sept. 11, she collaborated on a march to support Denver Muslims whose mosques had been vandalized.

In an interview with *Real Change* (January 1, 1999), Lueders was asked what her regimen was for staying so youthful. She said that "If I ever gave anybody a message it would be: This [your body] is what you have to live with, and you better keep it in reasonable repair. How you think about things in your own mind and question them is a very, very important ingredient in being flexible and getting old."

Her cheerful and youthful spirit is still here with many of us. ■

—Eunice Ha



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE.

Event Calendar for All Powers Project II

All events to be held at the UW Playhouse Theatre, 4045 University Way NE, unless noted. Except for the play readings, all events are free. Tickets for the play are \$10, and can be purchased at the Playhouse box office or by calling (206) 543-4880.

April 4

7 p.m. Keynote address featuring Georgetown Law Professor David Cole, "Enemy Aliens: How sacrificing human rights of immigrants will come back to haunt us all" UW Kane Hall, Room 110

April 5

12-2 p.m. Student forum: "War On Terrorism: Student Opinions"
4-6 p.m. Panel: "Civil Liberties Since 9/11: Views from the community," featuring Doug Honig of the ACLU, Koshin Mohamed of the Somali Community Services Coalition, and Tamir Moustafa of the Arab American Community Coalition.
7 p.m. *All Powers* reading and moderated talkback.

April 6

3-5 p.m. Panel: "In The Aftermath," featuring local authors and commentators.
7 p.m. *All Powers* reading and moderated talkback.

April 7

12:30-2:30 p.m. Panel: "Legacy of McCarthyism." Speakers: Richard Kirkendall (History), Michael McCann (Labor Studies), Margaret Levi (Political Science)
3:30 pm. *All Powers* reading and moderated talkback.

More information at (206) 543-7946.

Sponsors: The Walter Chapin Simpson Center for Humanities and the University of Washington School of Drama.

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Real Change Awards 2001

By Michele Marchand

In her acclaimed introduction to *The Best American Short Stories of 2001*, Barbara Kingsolver writes, "If it tells me something I didn't already know, or that I maybe suspected but never framed quite that way, or that never before socked me in the solar plexus, then the story is worth the read."

For the first time in our seven-year history, the eight editors of *Real Change* reread our entire previous year's oeuvre, with that same goal of selecting the sock-you-in-the-solar-plexus stories (and poetry, etc.) we published in the past year. This was not an act of shameless self-promotion; as we were engaged in our task none of us thought we would publish the results of our efforts.

But like a lesser form of *A Beautiful Mind*, we noticed certain patterns to our work that we wanted to share. The award-giving process gave us the opportunity to analyze our publication and discuss what we're all about, an opportunity that's often subsumed by the daily demands and the urgency of the news we cover.

My mother is a faithful *Real Change* reader. Inevitably, after she reads one of my obituaries or dark, angry essays, she phones me up and says, "Why can't you ever write about something hopeful? Why are you always writing about such dark things? Can't you ever write something light?"

Last week she phoned to talk about the obituary we'd just published for RaeAnn Champaco, a deaf-mute woman stabbed to death in Freeway Park in January. We had the same sort of conversation we always do about my obituaries, but then my mother said, "When you wrote about her not being able to hear her attacker or scream for help...it hurt me. It was as though I was there."

"That's the point!" I said. The story of RaeAnn Champaco hadn't been told anywhere else. One of the things that's going to push forward the movement, I pontificated to my own mother, is this kind of dark revelation, and then empathy, and then rage. For social justice to happen, we have to go into the darkness with people who are otherwise left behind and forgotten.

After a pause, my mother said, "Well, there are so many battles. You can't choose all of them. But the ones you choose and win, those are to your credit."

"It could give you hope..." wrote Rev. Pat Simpson in her introduction to our 11th-hour interview of Adrienne Rich last April. "We can choose to connect across all that divides us, each hauling and hewing the rock of our own place to build a common foundation. Our human work builds on deeper stone, and it matters cosmically."

In the past year *Real Change* published stories of hope: interviews with poets, and religious and lay leaders whose lifetimes have been given to fighting for social justice. Stories of homeless people organizing within their community for positive change. The most consistent coverage of SHARE/WHEEL's Tent City campaign of any Seattle publication. Personal success stories, literary essays, and poetry by homeless people themselves.

We also published stories that spiraled into the darkness of the realities of homeless people's experiences, and through those stories explained that death is on the other end if we don't mobilize for social justice.

We published one of the most comprehensive analyses of the demise of affordable housing in Seattle ever written.

And, we consistently asked hard questions about the American response to September 11, and questioned the war in columns, essays, poetry — even though opposition is mocked and vilified in the dailies, the weeklies.

As with any good advocacy journal, *Real Change* attempts to connect across the great divide, to build a common foundation. "We're for fairness, not neutrality," said editor Stan Burriss. We are on the side of poor people every time. More often than not, we let poor people speak through us, as organizers do. *Real Change* is the only paper in the North American Street Newspaper Association with a democratically organized Editorial Committee made up predominantly of homeless and formerly homeless people.

Real Change has a singular and special role in our community. Shameless self-promotion or not, we here at *Real Change* believe our work matters cosmically. On a good day we choose battles we hope we can win, working together. We are proud of our work, and of these award-winning works we published in 2001.

They give us hope.

Best Poem

Summa Cum Laude: "My Flag" by David Thornburgh, Nov. 15.

A poem of patriotic dissent, with beautiful lines like, "my flag/is Martin Luther King's voice breaking over one/hundred thousand hearts open to words of peace/and justice for all" and "My flag will never rally the troops of vengeance."

Magna Cum Laude: "Words" by Anitra Freeman, Nov. 1.

A powerful and painfully personal poem about verbal abuse that still finds hope: "Dig underneath the words/and you find/a heart knotted like a trumpet."

You can sound that heart/in words/and the other wounded hearts/echo."

Cum Laude: "Late Night Metro" by Reneene Robertson, May 13; "Newspaper, Coffee, Cinnamon Roll" by L.E. Cornelison, Dec. 13; "For Bev: Look out Angels" by Cynthia Ozimek, Nov. 29; "The 2x4x365 Trap" by Liz Smith, Feb. 22; "8/15" by Anitra Freeman, Aug. 23; "Remembrance" by Earle Thompson, Jan. 11; "Joe and the Shoe Factory" by Patrick Bissell, Dec. 28; "Fall Love" by Etabu Etabui, April 17.

Best Feature

Summa Cum Laude: "Prologue to Homelessness" by Trevor Griffey, Nov. 1.

A comprehensive exposé of the demise of low-cost housing in Seattle over decades. Honored for its breadth and powerful writing.

Magna Cum Laude: "The Longest Night" by Michele Marchand, Dec. 13.

Advocacy journalism about missing and murdered women—victims of the Green River Killer, the 40+ missing women in Vancouver, BC. Honored for its comprehensiveness and for shedding light on issues reductively covered by the daily papers if at all.

Cum Laude: "Work First or Kids First?" by Shauna Curphey, Aug. 9; "Sounding the Abyss" by Joe Martin, July 26.

Best News Story

Summa Cum Laude: "Seeking Solutions" Adam Holdorf and Bruce Lofton, October 18.

Clear coverage of an issue misrepresented by the dailies: City consultant Bob Santos' recommendation to house homeless people in "modular berthing units"—known as the barge.

Magna Cum Laude: "The Story of John Jovanovich" by David Lawton, July 12.

A beautifully written story of the eviction of a Belltown icon and activist, and the resultant demise of community-building at Belltown's low-

income The Virginian apartments.

Cum Laude: "The Client Shuffle" by Andrew Block, Aug. 9; "Free Ride" by Adam Holdorf, Feb. 8; "Gated Ghetto" by Manny Fishberg, Jan. 25; "Hopping Mad" by Aubrey Hiers, Feb. 8; "Cementing a Deal" by Andrew Block, June 14.

Best Opinion Piece

Rev. Richard Lang's "At the Last Resort" Sept. 20 and "Leave Tent City Alone" April 19.

The editors found it impossible to choose between these two strong, courageous pieces by Rev. Rich Lang of Trinity United Methodist Church. His "Leave Tent City Alone" told City government it would be "demonic" to evict Tent City from Trinity's parking lot—we loved the word demonic. His "At the Last Resort" was controversial among us editors. Although it sought ways for the religious community to oppose the war in Afghanistan and promote peace, one of its lines, "It's too late to stop this war," felt defeatist to the pacifists among us; we hoped for more hope on September 20.

Best Column

Summa Cum Laude: "Adventures in Poetry" by Wes Browning, Oct. 4.

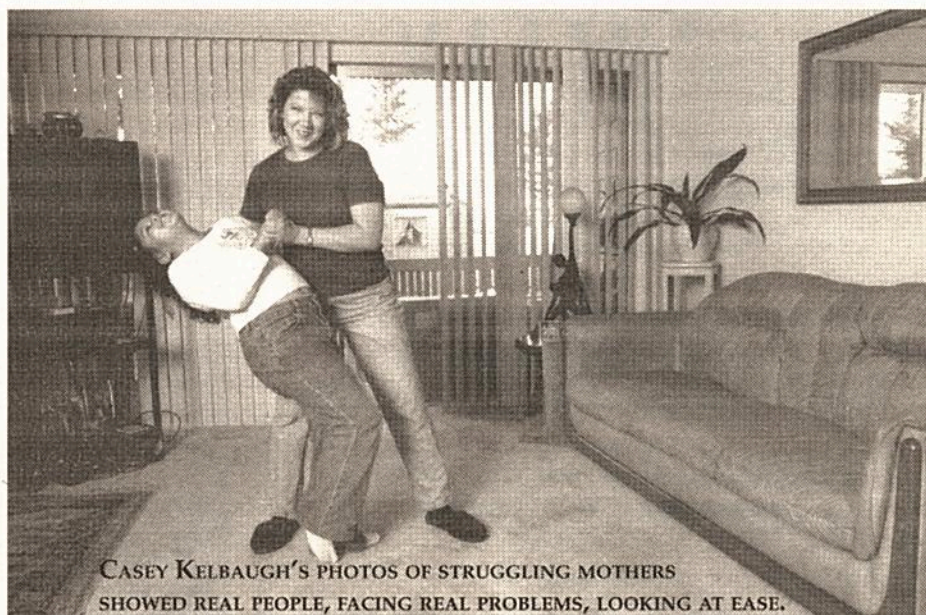
An ironic and prescient essay about the September 11 aftermath in paranoia: "I shudder at the very name of Barney Rubble." Wes wrote that he feared "Osama and his terrorism-fodder have successfully bombed us back to the 50s."

Magna Cum Laude: "Classics Corner" by Tim Harris, Oct. 18.

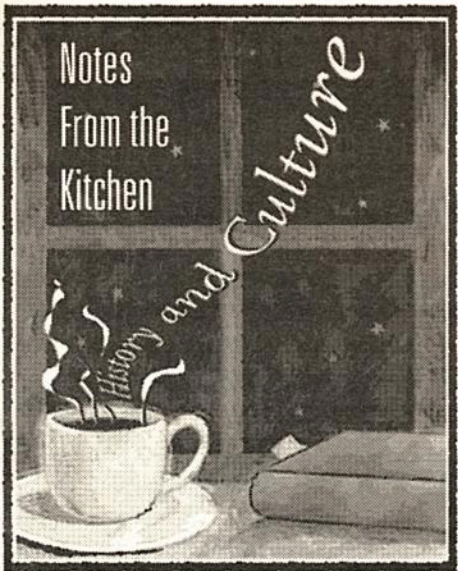
Connects Euripides' prophetic play *Trojan Women*, performed in wartime, to the need for prophets and truth-tellers, unpopular though they be, post-September 11.

Cum Laude: All of Bob Redmond's "This Just In" columns.

Continued on Page 14



CASEY KELBAUGH'S PHOTOS OF STRUGGLING MOTHERS SHOWED REAL PEOPLE, FACING REAL PROBLEMS, LOOKING AT EASE.



As the World Turns to Spring

By Liz Smith

This issue of *Real Change* marks the beginning of spring, and that means Easter is right around the corner. First there is the equinox – March 20th – then a full moon – March 25th – then Sunday, which is Easter Sunday. There are a lot of traditions associated with Easter, some dating back to the dawn of Christianity. Eggs, which are a symbol of rebirth and new life, were colored by the ancient Romans, when they weren't gallivanting around on their chariots conquering and enslaving people. The Easter bunny was regarded by the pagans as a reincarnation of the goddess Eastre, symbolizing spring and fertility. And that is so true. Rabbits are forever thinking of love, or fertility, and I should know, for I have raised them. Three or four baby bunnies are a beautiful sight, but 30 are a challenging redistribution problem.

When James Madison was President 150 years ago, his wife Dolly started the tradition of the Easter Egg Roll for children, where little tots rolled Easter eggs with little sticks on the White House lawn. This charming custom will happen again this year on the Monday after Easter.

Another fine tradition is the Easter Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City, which began in 1866 after the Civil War was ended. People wear spiffy new clothes and the crazy hats they've designed. There used to be the custom of mother-daughter dresses, but that's faded away. Perhaps in 15 years, when twentysomethings have teenage children, we'll see mothers and daughters in matching tattoos and spring pastel dreadlocks. With that statement, I have rendered myself

speechless and so will go on to something completely uncontroversial.

There are a few places where spring is especially flowery — places where you can stand and be showered with blossoms. Doesn't that sound peaceful and relaxing? The first place is Azalea Way in the Arboretum, which is lined with flowering cherry trees. Nearby is the Japanese Garden, which reopens March 23rd and is quite bucolic and peaceful. They have a \$2 entrance fee. Across the ship canal on the UW campus, the quadrangle by Miller Hall is a soothing pastoral grove of spring trees. You can get a map at the visitor's center or at any road entrance onto the campus. And over by Gasworks Park is a wonderful kite store close by; the view is just glorious. Sure, there's that small worry about lingering toxic waste, but you're not giving yourself a dust bath. You're going there to take in the view, not fret about your mortality.

The recipe for today's column is a luscious and delectable carrot walnut cake with a creamy frosting that isn't too sweet. The people in our newspaper office liked it, and I think you will also.

Swingin' into Spring Carrot Cake

- 1 tsp butter, 1/4 cup flour (for cake pans)

1/2 cup butter, room temperature

1 cup sugar

2 extra large eggs

1 1/2 cup finely grated carrots
(about 3 large carrots), mixed with 1 Tbsp
orange juice concentrate
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 tsp orange extract

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1 cup all purpose flour

1 cup toasted chopped walnuts (4 ounces)

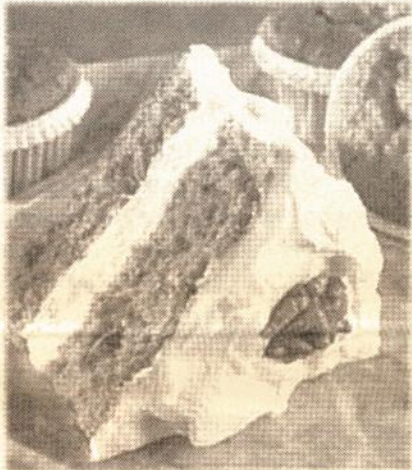
Frosting:

- 2 Tbsp butter

4 ounces white chocolate, chopped

3 Tbsp sugar
- 2 eight-ounce packages cream cheese,
cut into quarters

1 cup toasted chopped walnuts (4 ounces)



1. When I made this cake, I had all the ingredients prepared in bowls the night before: carrots grated and mixed with orange juice concentrate, dry ingredients stirred together, walnuts toasted and chopped, everything measured out first to make the cake more quickly.

2. Butter and flour two 9-inch cake pans. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

3. Cream butter until fluffy. Pour in sugar gradually and add the two eggs. Scrape the sides of the mixing bowl from time to time.

4. By hand, stir in carrots and flavorings, then the flour and other dry ingredients, and finally the walnuts.

5. Divide batter into cake pans. Bake 25 to 35 minutes. Cake is done when a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

6. *To make frosting:* In the top of a double boiler, melt butter and white chocolate. Whisk in sugar and then the cream cheese until perfectly smooth. Chill in refrigerator 15 minutes.

7. *To frost cake:* Get the first layer of this cake out of the pan by inverting a plate on top of the pan and turning upside down.

8. Lay strips of wax paper along the sides of cake plate to catch any stray splashes of frosting. Place first layer on plate. Cover first layer with about 1/4 of the frosting. Put second cake layer on top. Finish frosting the cake. Apply walnuts, then remove wax paper strips and serve. Store in refrigerator, covered. ■



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Thursday, Feb. 28, 11:30 p.m. – 2 a.m., 28th Ave. apartment garage. The caller stated that his friend, a 50-year-old transient Native-American male, needed a place to stay, and so he let him sleep in his car, which was parked in the garage of his apartment building. The man went to sleep at around 11:30 or 12 a.m. At around 3 a.m., the caller went to check on his friend, and found him unresponsive. He began to drive him to the hospital, but stopped on Olive to flag down a policeman. The Native-American male was declared dead on arrival, and police contacted the medical examiners office.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m., 2nd Ave. and Pike St. The suspect, a 22-year-old transient white male, was seen in the West Precinct SODA #1. He is known to be on active Department of Corrections status. Suspect was contacted, and the DOC County Corrections officer was also contacted. Police were instructed by the DOC to search the subject, and he was found to have paraphernalia on his person containing heroin residue. He was booked into King County Jail.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 1:44 p.m., sidewalk on the 1400 block of 2nd Ave. A 34-year-old transient white male was contacted for loitering. Upon routine radio check, it was discovered that subject had a listed warrant, which was verified via SPD radio. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 3:12 p.m., 1500 block 1st Ave. NCI team contacted the subject — a transient black female aged 30 — after it was known that she was wanted by the DOC. She was in possession of a crack pipe and cooker cap, which tested positive for the presence of crack cocaine and heroin. She was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m., 1500 block 2nd Ave. The suspect was contacted for drinking out of an open malt liquor container on the sidewalk. A check revealed a verified Drug Court warrant, and the suspect, a 35-year-old white homeless male, was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Friday, Mar. 1, 9:10 a.m., Seattle Pacific University, 3rd Ave. W. A Seattle Pacific security guard observed a man sleeping on a couch in Weter Hall. He recognized the man, a 33-year-old white male, as a frequent trespasser on campus. The suspect is known to have mental problems, and is afflicted with epilepsy. He was placed into custody by the security guard, and taken to the SPU security office. Police responded to the scene, and a name check revealed that he had been issued a criminal trespass warning in September. He was informed that he would be facing a criminal trespass charge from this report, and was given a ride to the downtown shelter. ■

Streetwatch is compiled from Seattle Police Department incident reports by Emma Quinn. Do you have your own story to tell? Call Real Change, (206)441-8143.

AWARDS Continued from Page 11

Best Essay

Summa Cum Laude: "Homeless Smoking" by Pati Wilson, April 5.

Accurately and funnily captures the withdrawal effect on smokers, when butts on the street look awfully good.

Magna Cum Laude: "Christmas Story for Homeless Nobodies" by Al Bliss, Dec. 13.

The Nativity story set in a homeless shelter. Made some of us cry on the bus, on our way home after a long hard day.

Cum Laude: "In the Git-Along Gang" by Tom Buckley, March 8; "Baptism by Fire" by Michele Marchand, Oct. 18; "One Eye" by Pati Wilson, Feb. 8; "The Little Lighter Girl" by Rodney Graham, Nov. 29; "Angry Enough to Care" by Michele Marchand, Jan. 25.

Best Interview

Summa Cum Laude: "Adrienne Rich," by Pat Simpson, Michele Marchand, and Anitra Freeman, April 19.

Honored for its beautiful and word-perfect introduction (Pat Simpson should get sole writing credit), and also because this interview only happened because Ms. Rich was gracious enough to give us 15 minutes of her time, unexpectedly, after her Town Hall reading.

Magna Cum Laude: "Zioncheck Lives" interview with Grant Cogswell, by Trevor Griffey, May 3.

Long before Grant Cogswell began his campaign for City Council, Trevor interviewed him on his passion for Marion Zioncheck, a senator who committed suicide in the late '30s.

Cum Laude: "Chained to Debt" (Robert D.

Manning) by Silja J.A. Talvi, Oct. 4; "Faith Matters" (Dean Rev. Robert Taylor) by Tim Harris and Liz Smith, April 5; "The Rev. Robert Jeffrey," by Trevor Griffey, June 14.

Best Photo

Summa Cum Laude: "A Step Back for King County's Children" by Casey Kelbaugh, Nov. 15.

Casey approaches every photo assignment with his brain turned on full-power. This one was especially well done: he took us into the lives of two working mothers struggling with child care costs. The product was real people, facing real problems, shown looking at ease.

Magna Cum Laude: "Ethiopian Family" by Erik Castro, Aug. 9.

Cum Laude: "Wheel Chair User" by George Hickey, Dec. 28.

Best Graphic

Summa Cum Laude: "Christmas Story for Homeless Nobodies" by Danijel Zezelj, Dec. 13.

Like all our volunteers, Danijel carves time out of his own life to work for Real Change. We send him text and he sends back pictures to accompany it. This was a wonderful rendering of one man's musings on a modern-day Rebirth of Christ. It was a cover hinting at hope during the darkest time of the year.

Magna Cum Laude: "Frolicking Tree Frogs" by Dae Giever, Feb. 22.

Cum Laude: "Chained to Debt" by Danijel Zezelj, Oct. 4.

Best Cover

Magna Cum Laude: "Wizard of Oz" (the Autumn Election Issue), illustrated by Tom Davis.

Amid more serious questions, we asked candidates for city office to tell us, if they were a character in the Wizard of Oz, which character they would be. Everyone was game; even then-candidate Nickels said he was, like the scarecrow, "smarter than people give [me] credit for."

Summa Cum Laude: "April Fools" (Mayor Schell endorses Tent City) by members of SHARE/WHEEL and Tim Harris, April 4.

Cum Laude: Dec. 13 (Christmas issue) by Tim Harris and Danijel Zezelj. ■

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

Every so often, we at Classics Corner hear someone or another justify our pathetic excuse for a society with the glib notion that homeless people choose their "lifestyle." For the record, we regard any proximate usage of the words "lifestyle" and "homeless" as a linguistic atrocity. A sleeping bag is not a fashion accessory. Waiting in long slow lines for cold food is not a consumer choice. Homelessness, unlike being a soccer mom or an urban hipster, is an identity that holds almost zero sex appeal.

This naturally brings to mind Philoctetes, one of the more haunting figures in Greek tragedy. This Sophoclean character, who appears in a play by the same name, is the proto-typical outsider. He has grown accustomed to loneliness and pain, and distrusts the do-gooders who have agendas of their own.

If it weren't for bad luck, as the saying goes, Philoctetes would have no luck at all. His trouble began when a snake bit his foot in retribution for stumbling into a sacred shrine. When the wound refused to heal and became gangrenous, Philoctetes became troublesome to have around. "We had no peace with him," says Odysseus. "He screamed and groaned so, and all those terrible cries of his brought ill luck on our celebrations."

Odysseus and the sons of Atreus take poor Philoctetes out and ditch him on the Island of Lemnos, where he lives alone in a cave, hunting small game with his magical bow, dragging his rotting foot around as best as he can.

Our story begins when, after 10 years, Odysseus and company find they need Philoctetes and his really special bow to finally sack Troy, a goal that has become a bit of an obsession for them. Odysseus guesses that Philoctetes might possibly still harbor a grudge, so he recruits Neptolemus, the morally upright son of Achilles, to trick the wounded loner into rejoining human society.

Philoctetes, speaking to Neptolemus, states the human condition nicely: "Look how men live, always precariously, balanced between good and bad fortune." Life, says, Philoctetes, is basically a huge crapshoot, and fortune is often fleeting.

Achilles' son offers to take Philoctetes to his homeland, but as they prepare to leave, the scout-like warrior decides to come clean: He is in league with Odysseus, he explains. An oracle has revealed that Philoctetes will be cured of his wound and will be the hero that finally takes Troy, but only if he will leave his island exile and face his destiny.

Philoctetes refuses. Maybe it's because he has no reason to trust anybody. Maybe he can't get past the huge injustice that has become his life. Maybe limping around alone on a rotted foot is what he knows, and anything else feels like an unbearable risk. Maybe he's just too beat down by pain and suffering to try anymore. His irrational refusal has a logic of its own.

In the end, Heracles pops up *deus ex machina* and convinces Philoctetes to put his pain aside and rise to the occasion. Sadly, not all of us get such happy endings. ■

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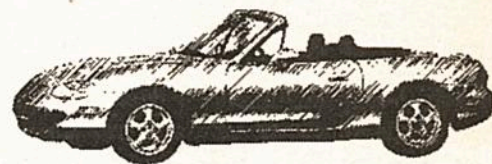
Real Change is growing our Board of Directors to help us "organize, educate, build alliances, and be a voice of the poor." The commitment is for at least 10 hours a month, including monthly meeting and committee work. If you have time, energy, and commitment to our mission, please think about becoming an important part of the Real Change Team. We are especially interested in new board members with marketing or fundraising expertise and people of color.

For an application, please contact:
Jon Gould, Real Change Board President, at 206-328-8310
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Spring Break Notables

Thursday 3/21

Beyond letters to the editor: **Citizen responsibility in an age of mass information.** 7-9 p.m., at Keystone United Church of Christ, 5019 Keystone Place (Wallingford); info 206-632-6021 or ccnrandall@igc.org.

Women in Black are sponsoring a **peace vigil** and leafleting to stop the war on Afghanistan, 5-6 p.m., this and subsequent Thursdays, at Westlake Park Arch at 4th and Pine; info 206-208-9715.

Radical Women present **Human Rights Under Fire in Colombia**, an eyewitness account. Latin American dinner with vegetarian option for a \$6.50 donation. 7:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. Everyone welcome; info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453.

Friday 3/22

Seattle Reclaim the Streets will show a documentary on the **World Bank/International Monetary Fund** protests in Prague. 6:30 p.m., at Seattle Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave., 6 p.m. potluck dinner. Tickets are \$2; info call Brady 206-240-1346.

Saturday 3/23

Northwest premiere of "Paint It Black: Anarchism, Urban Uprising, and the Mainstream News Media" The screening will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, Jessica Lawless. 7:30 p.m., at Seattle Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave., downtown; info 206-262-0721.

Sunday 3/24

Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO) monthly radio program, "Speaking for Ourselves, To Each Other," with host Bev Sims, this and subsequent 4th Sundays, 8:30 a.m., on KEXP radio, 90.3 FM.

Living Voices presents "Through the Eyes of a Friend: A Story of the Holocaust," friendship and survival brought to life through the eyes of Anne Frank's best friend. 1:30 p.m., at Wing Luke Museum, 407 7th Ave. S.; 206-623-5124.

Monday 3/25

Peace & Justice Alliance of Washington's Peace Café presents a celebrity guest barrista. Join them for **espresso, pastries, and politics**, this and subsequent last Mon-

days, 7:30-9 p.m., at the Peace Café, 5828 Roosevelt NE.; info 206-529-8081 or <http://www.peacecafe.org>.

Tuesday 3/26

Seattle City Council will host a public hearing on **Logging Proposal for Watershed**. Show up to speak or be a supporter. 7 p.m., in the Olympus Room of the Mountaineers Club, 300 3rd Ave; info 206-545-3734 ext. 11 or michaels@pcbp.org.

Feminist Majority Campaign to Stop **Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan** presentation by Mavis Leno, Chair and longtime outspoken critic of Taliban treatment of women. 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall 1119 8th Ave. tickets \$10, \$20, \$50; info 206-685-3474.

Wednesday 3/27

The King County **Labor Film Series** presents "The Killing Floor," showing the brutal beginnings of the American Labor Movement. 7:30 p.m., at Seattle Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave., free; info 206-903-9488.

Thursday 3/28

Community Meeting with **Seattle Human Rights Commission**, the volunteer commission that advises the City Council on human rights. 7-8:30 p.m., at Mt Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th, Seattle.

Saturday 3/30

The Second People Web Spring Equinox Celebration, celebrating our Interpen-Dance. 3 p.m., at the Fremont Unconventional Centre, 160 N. Canal St. 7-11 p.m., potluck dinner, music and dancing; info Anji Ringzin 206-632-1722.

Sunday 3/31

Humanists of Washington Fifth Sunday Salon, bring food or drink to share, families welcome. 3-8 p.m., at 1652 - 35th Ave. NE; info 206-527-8518.

Monday 4/1

Jubilee 2000 NW Coalition meeting working for **debt relief for world's poorest nations**, this and subsequent 1st Mondays, 5:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E.; info Betsy Bell 206-933-1889.

Tuesday 4/2

Tools For Parents Lecture Series presents "Raising Children in a Diverse Society," a conversation moderated by Enrique Cerna of KCTS TV. 7-9 p.m., at Wright Auditorium, Children's Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, tickets are \$10; info or to preregister <http://www.toolsforparents.com> or 206-441-0191.

Wednesday 4/3

Jobs with Justice Seattle Organizing Committee meeting, this and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave.; info 206-441-4969.

Thursday 4/4

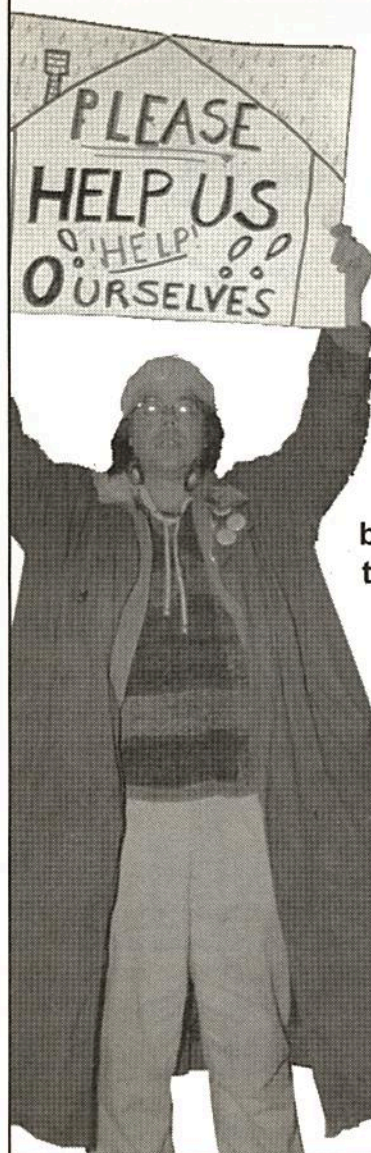
University of Washington Arms Control and Disarmament Class on "Arms Control and International Law," first hour of class open to the public. 5:30-6:30 p.m., this and subsequent Thursdays through June 6, at Kane Hall, Room 220; info Dr. Charles A. Meconis 206-543-9031.

American Civil Liberties Union and University of Washington faculty host a series of events on **Civil Liberties**, addressing threats to civil liberties by the USA Patriot Act following events of 9/11. Through April 7; info Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies 206-543-7946 or pcls@u.washington.edu.

Ongoing

Free reading, writing, math, and ESL classes for adults at the People's Learning Center. Classes meet at Southeast Family Center, 7301 Beacon Ave. Call 206-325-8308 for more information. ■

Do Something!



First things First is the organizing project of *Real Change* that works to preserve low-income housing and put a roof over every bed. **You can help by pledging to take action when First things First alerts you to critical decisions affecting the poor and homeless.** When you join our action alert list we will contact you by your preferred method when your voice needs to be heard. **You will not get a lot of junk mail. You will be part of creating real change for the poor and homeless.**

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Mail to: Real Change
2129 2nd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121.
Call (206) 441-3247 for more info.

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Help Fulfill Our MacWorkshop Wish List!

The *Real Change* MacWorkshop is sorely in need of the following items:

- A new lab computer. Our current lab computer, an HP IIIsi, is old bordering on non-functioning
- A new lab printer
- Size 1/2 AA, 3.6-volt batteries
- Gift certificates to Office Max to help us pay for any of the above items
- Committed lab monitors with good people skills. Extensive computer knowledge is nice, but definitely not needed. This is an exciting opportunity to help someone write a resume, find a job, or better their lives.

All donations are tax deductible.

If you're interested in getting involved, call Real Change at 206-441-3247 and ask for Lily

citizens participation project



Tell Seattle Council to Support Housing Levy

Issue: The 2002 Housing Levy, set for a public vote in November, is currently being shaped by the Seattle Housing Levy Renewal Citizens Advisory Committee and the Seattle City Council. Let these groups know how best to use the money to provide housing for those who could not otherwise afford it.

Background: The \$59.2 million Housing Levy adopted by the voters in 1995 provides a major source of funding for the City's efforts to preserve and develop affordable housing in the City, particularly for low-income households. The Housing Levy ends this year. The council plans to finalize the details of the new levy at public hearings taking place over the next couple of months.

The Seattle Housing Levy Renewal Citizens Committee is recommending a property tax levy that would raise between \$110 to \$150 million over six to nine years to provide a continuum of housing ranging from housing for homeless people, rental housing for the working poor, to affordable homeownership opportunities. This would result in 2,000 to 3,200 units being produced.

The Citizens Committee was established last year to make a recommendation on the housing levy to Mayor Nickels, who will recommend to City Council a measure to be placed on the ballot. A diverse group of individuals and organizations are represented on the Citizens Committee including real estate interests, nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, social services providers, business leaders, bankers, and government officials.

In proposing a range in the levy size up to \$150 million levy, the Citizens Committee increased funding for rental housing and homeownership production, and added two new program components. This included an Emergency Housing Assistance Payment Program to assist families and individuals at-risk of homelessness with short-term rent and mortgage payments. And a Community Development Opportunity Fund would serve as a catalyst for housing and community development in target neighborhoods. Approximately 2,450 rental units and 750 homeownership units would be produced. The property tax increase on an average residential home (assessed at \$321,000 in 2003) would range from a low of \$48 per year (for a \$110 million levy assessed over nine years), to \$99 per year (for a \$150 million levy assessed over six years).

There are other proposals in addition to the one by the citizens' committee. The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County (HDC) issued a position paper calling for a larger levy in the amount of \$200 million, essentially doubling the size of the current levy. This would result in 4,000 units being created or preserved. HDC believes a higher housing production goal is needed because 30,000 low-income Seattle households pay over half their income for rent, and 2,000 are homeless each night. The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless supports the position that 50% of all levy funds should be used for construction and operation of housing for households at 30% of the area median income and below. The Initiative 71 compromise struck by housing advocates with the Seattle City Council last year calls for the City to fund a minimum of 100 transitional and 100 permanent units for homeless households.

Action: The City Council will recommend the final housing levy package to the voters, after receiving input from the mayor, the Citizens Advisory Committee and the public — you. At least three more public meetings are scheduled in front of the whole council to discuss the levy — April 15, May 6, and May 13. (Visit the city of Seattle website at www.ci.seattle.wa.us for meeting times and locations.) It is expected that the Mayor will present his recommendation at the end of March or beginning of April. A final Full Council vote on this measure is targeted for June 3rd. ■

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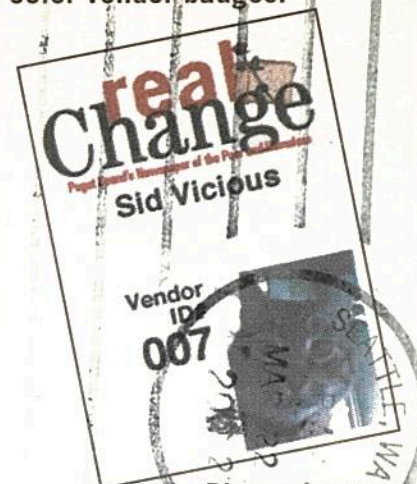
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